

ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT WORTH

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PRESS RELEASE

GO! Arts: Art of the Word – Promoting Literacy through the Arts

(Fort Worth, TX) – This summer, the Arts Council of Fort Worth launched its pilot grant program **GO! Arts: Art of the Word**. Building on the Arts Council’s GO! Arts outreach support efforts and aligning with Mayor Betsy Price’s literacy initiative, this new program supports artistic programming designed to enhance children’s reading comprehension, written and verbal communication, and analytical thinking through storytelling, music, dance, poetry, and the visual arts. Presented in conjunction with the **Mayor’s Summer Reading Challenge**, Art of the Word is scheduled to take place in library branches and community centers across the city through August 5, 2019. Arts Council supported programs include:

- **Mrs. Dipsworth’s Storytime**
Presented by **DVA Productions, Inc.**, Mrs. Dipsworth’s Storytime is quite simply a unique presentation of stories and songs. Mrs. Dipsworth is a fairy godmother style character with a larger than life presence. She reads stories chosen by the teacher or librarian that align with the current theme or curriculum. Songs that complement the story are added to enhance the overall experience for the students. The wonderful thing about this show is that the information covered is always applicable to what the students are learning; and the delivery is comparable to that which every grandmother would give. Children ages 3 through 11 have been entertained by Mrs. Dipsworth’s Storytime since 2011. School districts such as Fort Worth ISD, Irving ISD, Aledo ISD, Dallas ISD, Keller ISD and more have created extended curriculum including regular visits from Mrs. Dipsworth. Her highly interactive presentation makes her a welcome addition to any event! For more information about DVA Productions, Inc., please visit www.dvaproductions.org.
- **Exploring Monet’s Garden: Art and Word Games**
Join the **Kimbell Art Museum** for learning and art-making activities inspired by masterpieces by the renowned Impressionist painter Claude Monet (1840–1926). Children will have the opportunity to respond to artworks by sharing observations, explore multi-sensory connections, and participate in related games and an art-making activity inspired by Monet’s garden at Giverny. This program is designed for children ages 5 to 9. To learn more about the Kimbell Art Museum, visit www.kimbellart.org.

- **Adventures with Wari Man: Art and Culture from Ancient Peru**
Join the **Kimbell Art Museum** for learning adventures inspired by the ancient Wari people of South America. Children will learn about the cultural traditions and different regions once ruled by the Wari, and even help plan a Wari-style party for a special surprise guest! Artwork discussions, interactive dual-language games, and a storybook-making activity are designed for children ages 5 to 9.
- **Voice2Youth Express**
Since 2006, **The Thank You Darlin' Foundation** has successfully implemented its award-winning Voice2Youth program in 30 public schools. The capstone of the Voice2Youth program is the annual citywide poetry slam, which this year brought K-12 students from eight schools in the Fort Worth Independent School District to Texas Christian University's campus to perform original poetry before a public audience. For most students, it was their first-time visiting a college or university. By providing early exposure to poetry and other creative arts, the program aims to build a strong literacy foundation in children that will inspire their achievement and aspiration for higher education. For more information about The Thank You Darlin' Foundation, visit www.tydfoundation.org.

For a full calendar of the Fort Worth Public Library's summer programming, please visit https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityoffortworth/Activity_Search.

For more information about the Mayor's Summer Reading Challenge, visit https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityoffortworth/Activity_Search.

About the Arts Council of Fort Worth

The Arts Council of Fort Worth is a nonprofit organization with the mission to create an environment that promotes, nurtures, and supports the arts in our community. The Arts Council was formed in 1963 to provide funding and leadership that would stimulate and assure the advancement of the arts throughout the Fort Worth community. Today, the Arts Council serves and responds to the needs of local artists, arts organizations, and residents through management of the Competitive Grants Program, Fort Worth Public Art Program and the Fort Worth Community Art Center. Learn more about the Arts Council at www.artsfortworth.org.

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